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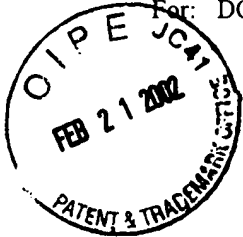
**Response to Restriction Requirement**

J. H. Geerke

Serial No.: 09/735,989

Filed: 13 December 2000

For: DOSAGE FORMS HAVING A BARRIER LAYER TO LASER ABLATION



PATENT

Docket No. ARC2940R1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	J. H. Geerke	)	Group Art Unit:	1616
		)		
Serial No.:	09/735,989	)	Examiner:	R. Dewitty
		)		
Filed:	13 December 2000	)		
For:	DOSAGE FORMS HAVING A BARRIER LAYER TO LASER ABLATION			

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed 18 January 2002, please enter the following remarks in the above-identified application as follows:

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, the claims set forth in Group I, (claims 1-9, and 13-21), drawn to a dosage form. The Restriction Requirement is hereby traversed on the basis that restriction requirements are optional in all cases (M.P.E.P. §803). If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it arguably may include claims to distinct or independent inventions (M.P.E.P. §803).

In the present application, as the elected claims are closely related to the claims of Group II (also drawn to a dosage form), and Group III (drawn to methods for controlling laser ablation), the search and examination of all the claims can be made without serious burden upon the Patent Office. In particular, the claims of Groups II and III can be efficiently and effectively searched in

**Response to Restriction Requirement**

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a single search with no additional burden placed on the Examiner. That is, all the claims are so interrelated that a search of one group of claims will reveal art to the other.

Thus, were final restriction to be effected between the claims of Groups I, II, and III, a separate examination of the claims in these groups would require substantial duplication of work on the part of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Even though some additional consideration would be necessary, the scope of analysis of novelty of all the claims of Groups I, II, and III, would have to be as rigorous as when only the claims of Group I, for example, were being considered by themselves. Clearly, this duplication of effort would not be warranted where these claims are so interrelated. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that for restriction to be effected between the claims in Groups I, II, and III, it would place an undue burden upon the Applicants by requiring payment of separate filing fees for examination of the nonelected claims, as well as the added costs associated with prosecuting three applications and maintaining three patents.

**Summary**

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8**

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper is being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 6th day of FEB., 2002.

Katrina M. Ghafghaichi  
Katrina Ghafghaichi

Respectfully Submitted,

ALZA Corporation  
1900 Charleston Road  
Mountain View, CA 94043  
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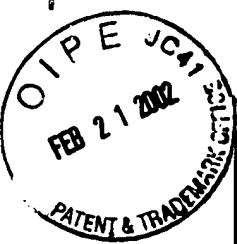
06 FEB 2002  
Date

By:

Paul B. Simboli  
Paul B. Simboli

Reg. No. 38,616

Direct Dial: (650) 564-7840



Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

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Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<h1>TRANSMITTAL FORM</h1> <p>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</p>		Application Number	09/735,989
		Filing Date	December 13, 2000
		First Named Inventor	Johan H. Geerke
		Group Art Unit	1616
		Examiner Name	Dewitty, Robert
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	ARC2940R1

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Remarks:		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Paul B. Simboli; ALZA Corporation
Signature	<i>Paul B. Simboli</i>
Date	06 FEB 2002

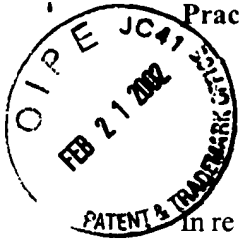
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Typed or printed name	KATRINA M. GHAFGHAIHI		
Signature	Katrina M. Ghafghaichi	Date	02-06-02

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Practitioner's Docket No. ARC2940R1

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of:

Application No.: 09/735,989

Filed: 12/13/2000

For: Dosage Forms Having a Barrier Layer to Laser Ablation

Geerke, Johan H.

Group No.: 1616

Examiner: Dewitty, Rober

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. section 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that the attached correspondence comprising:

Restriction Requirement

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage, as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

On: February 6, 2002

Katrina M. Ghafghaichi  
Signature of person mailing paper